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Spend, Spend—And No Accounting!

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

CAPITAL REPORT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—The Crusade for Freedom is one of those superprivileged organizations to which givers may address contributions "care of your local postmaster." Radio announcements in its behalf are recognized by the Federal Communications Commission as "public service" announcements.

There are other official sponsorships and pressurings into which appropriate committees of Congress should inquire. For example, the Crusade is one of the causes for which all government employees are solicited for contributions, in a circular addressed to "my fellow workers in government," and signed by the President.

Participation is all but mandatory.

Inasmuch as the net proceeds of the crusade go to support the profligate Free Europe and its affiliated operations, I fall off the sled.

One of the early organizers of Radio Free Europe informs me that from the outset, it has been systematically manned by many confirmed Marxists, and for that reason he finally quit in disgust.

It operates its own fabulous empire in Europe, with an estimated minimum of 1,000 people there, not to mention an additional 500 in New York.

In Munich, it has built plush modern apartment houses for its staff, foreign and American, with parquet floors, modern kitchens, all furnished with rentals below the going rentals



GEN. CRITTENBERGER
The titular head.

for German accommodations, which are notoriously low.

WORST OF ALL, the overall management in New York is in the hands of a troop of rich men's sons, drawing fancy salaries for playing an adolescent game of amateur foreign intrigue.

If this business is serious, it ought to be in the hands of adult, serious men.

As it is, the titular head is a military friend of President Eisenhower, a retired Lieutenant General named Willis D. Crittenger, who was with him in Europe in World War II.

But immediately under him is the Rover Boy regime, the guiding principle of which is to measure accomplishment by the number of dollars spent.

With the folding of the balloon

propaganda operations across the Iron Curtain, the heads of that operation began scurrying about for some new ventures to justify their existence, and came up with what they call the Asian contacts program, and another called the book distribution program.

These I shall deal with later in detail. My point is that the basic motivation is to spend money, somehow, and to keep knee-deep in clover.

Purportedly, the Free Europe operation is a privately financed enterprise. It does not admit any backing by the CIA, financial or otherwise. If this is so, its records and finances should be subject to public inspection and public audit.

That is not the way it works, however. Any such suggestion is squelched immediately and arbitrarily, because of the CIA connection in Washington. Even Congressional committees are unable to break the sanctity wall of CIA.

But they may be able to, this time. At least three Congressional investigating committees are digging into the Free Europe story, and when its officials appear on the stand, they'll either have to open the books and records, or admit being a CIA arm in order to get security. That, at least, will smoke things out into the open.
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